

# Convention of Hawaiians Lean to Independent Action

Wednesday, June 6.  
In the neighborhood of a hundred and fifty native Hawaiians, forming the nucleus of what will undoubtedly be an independent political party in these islands, met in the drill shed this forenoon to hear what R. W. Wilcox and other Hawaiian leaders had to say on the political status here today. On the platform were Kalauokalani, who acted as chairman, Jas. K. Kaulla, president of the Aloha Aina Society, R. W. Wilcox and other prominent natives.

Kalauokalani called on Rev. J. B. Lelele for prayer and then opened the meeting with a short speech. He stated that the object of the meeting was to consider what should be done by the Hawaiians in the matter of political organization under the new conditions.

As the result of the work of the United States Government, Hawaii had become a Territory of that country and the natives full fledged citizens. Up to the time that annexation became a fact, the Hawaiians had striven for the restoration of the monarchy. Perhaps that feeling was still with a great many. The hope that some European power would interfere was ever in the hearts of loyal Hawaiians.

However, as that had passed away and Hawaii was now a part of the United States. The old hope should be put aside and every Hawaiian should work shoulder to shoulder for the good of Hawaii. Continuing, Kalauokalani said:

"I call upon all of you to think carefully over what you intend to do. The time is ripe for thought. We have been given our laws by the United States and we can vote as American citizens. The United States has given us certain privileges. Are we going in as a whole to fight for the good of the country or are we going to hold aloof. That remains with you.

"Perhaps you are not all willing to bury the past but wait and hear what our delegate, Robert Wilcox, has to say and then I think you will see it is to your interest to get over the old feeling and forge ahead. The United States has been kind to us. We should accept what has been given to us and join hand in hand in the great work that is before us.

"We have never been given the power to vote by the people recently in power. Now there is no longer anything in the way of the Hawaiians and we have full power to vote as we see fit, without even the slightest restriction.

"There are two great parties in the United States—the Republicans and the Democrats. You should not forget what the Democrats did for the natives nor yet should you forget what you have recently had at the hands of the Republican Administration. Some of you may want to join one or the other of these parties but, if you do not feel you want to ally yourselves with either, then form another party and fight for what you believe to be right. You have seen what the Republicans have done toward organization and are now in a position to watch what is being done by the Democrats. I say again, it is your future course.

"On the 15th of August, 1898, our beloved flag went down forever. Of course, we can never forget that but now that is past, let us look forward, ever praying God to guide us in the right.

Kalauokalani here introduced Jas. K. Kaulla, president of the Aloha Aina Society who spoke, in brief, as follows:

"Let us look to Hawaii.  
"We have here today (now that Hawaii has become a part of the United States) two great political parties—the Republicans and the Democrats. For seven years we have had neither of these in our country. However, there were two parties—the Annexationists and the loyalists. Out of Mother Annexation two children have been born—the Republican and Democratic parties.

"For myself, I will join neither. I intend to be an independent and I hope you will be the same. Let us join hands and knock out the missionaries. We have been deprived of everything for seven years. Now that we can vote let us go ahead and work. We are here to decide just how we are to stand.

"The Democrats and Republicans are trying to frighten us into the belief that, in case we do not join one or the other, we will just die a natural death and that we will be unable to do anything.

"Now the United States has given

us the power to vote, and no one can prevent us. Hartwell, Dole's man, tried in every manner to down the natives but we had observing friends in Washington. These men saw that the Hawaiians were most worthy of consideration and, through their labors, we have been given must just laws.

"We are Americans and we will vote at the ballot box. Let us be independent." (Great applause.)

The next speaker introduced was Robert W. Wilcox, the delegate of the Hawaiians, who returned from Washington in the City of Peking Monday night.

Mr. Wilcox began his speech with an "aloha" to the people present which was responded to by "alohas" all over the house. In brief, Mr. Wilcox spoke as follows:

"About a year has passed since I went to Washington to work for the good of the people of Hawaii. My determination to go was arrived at very suddenly. I left in the Coptic November 15, 1899, in company with W. O. Smith. Attorney Cayless, my associate, went on before me and I met him in Seattle.

"Of course, our first work was to see if restoration could not be accomplished. Failing in this, our next work was to proceed to Washington and there make a fight for good laws for the people of Hawaii. It was our intention to go before the American people in the newspapers and obtain enough influence, if possible, to get back our old-time form of government.

"Our first attempt was with the Seattle Times. You will remember, I sent papers to Honolulu, in which was a picture of Queen Liliuokalani standing on Hawaii with her hands held up, while robbers were pulling out the land from under our feet. The editor of the Times told us our cause was a hopeless one. Even if we had thousands of dollars we could not accomplish what we wished.

"In Chicago, Washington and New York we met with the same opinion on the part of the editors of the principal papers friendly to our cause. There was no use crying over spilt milk," they said.

Just at this point Mr. Wilcox began the story of the work on the Hawaiian bill in the House and Senate. He spoke of the various Representatives and Senators, lining them up on one side or the other, as they were favorable or unfavorable to the striking out of the property qualification and tax clause. His attendance at the meetings of the house committee were carefully detailed. At the first meeting Colonel Little of Hilo was the first speaker from Hawaii. Little was favorable to the Hawaiians, although what he went to Washington for was to place certain land questions before the committee. "I was the next to speak, and I did my best to have the property qualification clause knocked out.

"W. O. Smith was the last speaker. He fought for the property qualification and made the statement that, although the Hawaiians were a good people, they were wholly irresponsible and incapable of governing themselves. He urged the recommendation of all the restrictions."

Mr. Wilcox mentioned Cullum as the principal fighter on the Dole side and likened him to a doused rat when the vote was taken and it was found that the property qualification had been knocked out. Knox was also mentioned playfully. Mr. Wilcox giving out the information that he was a schoolmate of Hartwell.

"My work was to pay particular attention to what was going on in connection with matters Hawaiian and to do all in my favor to obtain good laws for Hawaii. I did this conscientiously. "Now, then, the people who have eaten our food, the men who have ruled affairs with an arbitrary hand for seven years and who held themselves above us have nothing left. The power is in our hands, my friends, if we will but use it. If we want we can control both houses of this Territory.

"When the property qualification and the tax clause were knocked out it did seem as if God was with me, for there I was battling single handed against odds that would certainly have made a strong man tremble.

"Just a little in regard to the monarchy, now gone forever. It was, of course, with deep regret that I saw everything denied our Queen by the men at the head of affairs in Washington. However, she has returned to you, glad to be here and glad that you have been given the power of ruling yourselves.

If you stand together in the manner of a solid wall of masonry, you will be the rulers of the country. Look forward, then, to a new era of prosperity. "Monarchy may be likened unto a dead man whom we have done our best for. We have buried him in a proper manner. There is no possibility of his coming to life again.

"Our friends in Washington told me to return to Hawaii, to be of good cheer and to advise you to send your own man to Washington when the time should be ripe. Thurston tells us in his paper that there is a possibility of a change in the bill. I know that is true—if we allow a missionary to represent us at Washington.

"Now, then, let me give you a little advice. Let us work for the greatest good of the greatest number and let us not consider whether a man's skin be white or whether it be dark. Let us have justice toward all. In September you will have a chance to register, and, in November, you will vote for your House of Representatives and Senate.

"There are two parties here now—the Republicans and Democrats. It has been said that if you ally yourselves with one party you will be hurt by the other and vice versa. The thing to do is to form a party for yourselves and to have home rule. (Great applause.) We have been likened unto fishes by some of the Democrats and Republicans, and it has also been stated that we will sooner or later be caught in their nets.

"In closing, I would like to say that I watched the Hawaiian bill through its final passage and can say that I am satisfied it is laid down on lines most satisfactory to you. While in Washington I worked quietly and indulged in no personalities whatever in connection with the men who were working against your interests."

Joseph Heleluhe was to speak, but was unable to be present on account of illness. Kalauokalani announced that the meeting would adjourn until 1:30 p. m., in order to call on the Queen in a body.

Thursday, June 7.  
At the afternoon session of the Independents yesterday the business started out with the introduction of the following resolution:

"Be it resolved that the members of the Executive Committees of the Hui Kalaiaina and Hui Aloha Aina be made consulting members of this Convention."

A lively debate followed after the adoption of the resolution. After this,

## NOW FOR THE TELEGRAMS.

The final installment of the wireless telegraph system, two experts and all the instruments and equipment arrived in the Australia this morning. The period of waiting for men and material is at last at an end, and the work of establishing telegraphic communication between the islands will go forward with all possible despatch.

J. S. V. Pletts and T. E. Hobbs are the gentlemen who arrived this morning to assist Mr. Bowden, who has charge of the work for the Marconi Company. The full equipment for every island station will probably be unloaded from the Australia this afternoon. Already the pole at the Kaimuki station is being placed in position. As soon as this station is completed work will begin on the Molokai and Maui stations, the system being first extended toward Hilo and Hawaii.

Will E. Fisher's offer of \$50 for the privilege of auctioning off the first message will be accepted, and it is not improbable that the event will be so arranged that the contestants for the purchase of this valuable document will have the opportunity of hearing it click from the wires in Honolulu on Saturday, June 16.

The mover withdrew the resolution. A little later on, the resolution with the amendment, prohibiting the executive committees of the two societies from voting, was adopted.

Geo. Markham introduced the following:

"That Robert W. Wilcox and J. K. Kaulla be made speakers of the Convention without the privilege of voting."

Again there followed a long debate during which the report of Mr. Wilcox on the previous day was adopted. The following resolution from Kipahu, Maui, was read:

"We, the undersigned fit persons for voting, residing in the district of Kipahu, Kaupua, Maui, do hereby state that we are not Democrats nor Republicans, but belong to an independent party." The resolution was signed by seventy-one persons.

Another resolution was read by Kama: "Resolved, That the undersigned members of the Hui Kalaiaina and Hui Aloha Aina of Kipahu, eligible members for balloting, do hereby declare that we will not become Republicans or Democrats, but will be Independent." Thirty-six names were appended.

Several delegates from the different islands arose and stated that they were instructed to vote for an independent party.

The following resolution was adopted unanimously:

"Moved that the Hawaiians should stand as an Independent or Home Rule Party."

The resolution was a short one but it was nevertheless the foundation of an independent party.

Chairman Kalauokalani then asked the following question:

"Will you as Hawaiians unanimously enter into any election that may be held, whether in November or in a special election which may be called by the Governor, stand together at the election and enter the campaign as Independents?"

There came a unanimous chorus of ayes.

Before concluding the meeting, Mr. Kaulla announced a mass meeting for Saturday night, beginning at 7 o'clock, to be held outside the drill shed.

The delegates assembled in the drill shed again at 10 o'clock this morning and settled down immediately to the reading of the minutes of the previous day. There was considerable discussion on certain points and then the minutes were adopted. The delegates who were absent on the previous day were installed.

The following platform of the Independent party was then adopted without change, although it was read sec-

tion by section by Jos. K. Kaulla:

We believe that all governments founded on an independent basis should be assured of freedom without oppression. We believe in equal rights and freedom for all people.

We believe man was born with a right to be independent and that every person is equal in the eye of the law. We believe that he is endowed with all the privileges of life, liberty and the right to choose that which will contribute to his best advantage. We believe in protection against suppression. We believe that we should strive to secure equal rights for the people, by the people and of the people.

The objects of home rule are summed up in the motto: "Equal rights for the people."

The belief of the Independent party is that the successful candidates in the Legislature of the Territory of Hawaii should strive in every way to secure the consent of the Congress of the United States to make a State of the Territory of Hawaii and pledge ourselves to support all good and equal provisions that either the Republican or Democratic parties of the United States may see fit to enact.

We further pledge ourselves to support that political party in the United States that will work to make Hawaii a State.

We intend to strive in every way possible to secure from the United States benefits and privileges for the natives and other citizens alike who will work together for the good of the country, regardless of color. We also intend to strive toward the end that our representatives shall formulate the best laws for the people.

Our legislators should strive to obtain homesteads for the people out of the lands that have been taken over by the United States.

They should also strive to set aside an appropriation for damages by fire, caused by the burning of Chinatown and other places by the Board of Health in connection with the suppression of bubonic plague in 1900.

They shall further strive to encourage education, industrial pursuits, farming road making, railroads and both foreign and local commerce that will redound to the advantage of the country.

We stand opposed to monopolies, to any attempt at a restriction of the voting privileges of natives or citizens who think as they do, that might be attempted later. We stand opposed to the heavy taxation of the people, the

restriction of the jury rights of the natives and to all other restriction of the rights of the people.

George Markham introduced an amendment to the effect that the eight-hour law be proposed, that government work be given to citizens of the Territory of Hawaii and that the importation of labor from the States be encouraged. This went over until the afternoon session.

Mr. Markham, in presenting his amendment spoke, in brief, as follows: "A great deal has been said about our being an anti-isle party. That is not so as you know. (Applause.) Our object is to obtain the greatest good for the greatest number. Articles are being published daily in the Advertiser trying to make it appear that we as natives are ranging ourselves against the foreigners. Our foreign friends are the ones who know best that such statements are altogether untrue." (Applause.)

Upon motion the meeting adjourned until 1:30 o'clock.

Friday, June 8.

The delegates to the Independent convention met again yesterday afternoon at noon for a high lift pump for the Beretania street water station. The idea of procuring a certain pump imported for a plantation had been discarded. The bids were as follows, in one case the head office and the local agency sending in separate ones:

H. R. Worthington, \$18,000.  
Fraser & Chalmers, No. 1, \$24,200; No. 2, \$20,400.

Snow Steam Pump Works, \$25,045, or \$27,995 to erect complete, government to build foundations.

Blake Pump Co., \$30,300.  
Honolulu Iron Works, \$15,500.  
Geo. F. Blake Manufacturing Co., \$29,550.

Henshaw, Bulkley & Co., No. 1, \$23,650, erect engine for \$1800; No. 2, \$30,525, erect engine for \$2000; No. 3, \$21,450, erect engine for \$1500; air pump extra in each bid, \$550.

Ridson Iron Works, No. 1, \$18,900; No. 2, \$17,000.

Pacific Coast Machinery Co., No. 1, \$18,300; No. 2, \$31,500.

It will take some days to size up the merits of the many propositions before the contract can be awarded.

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